

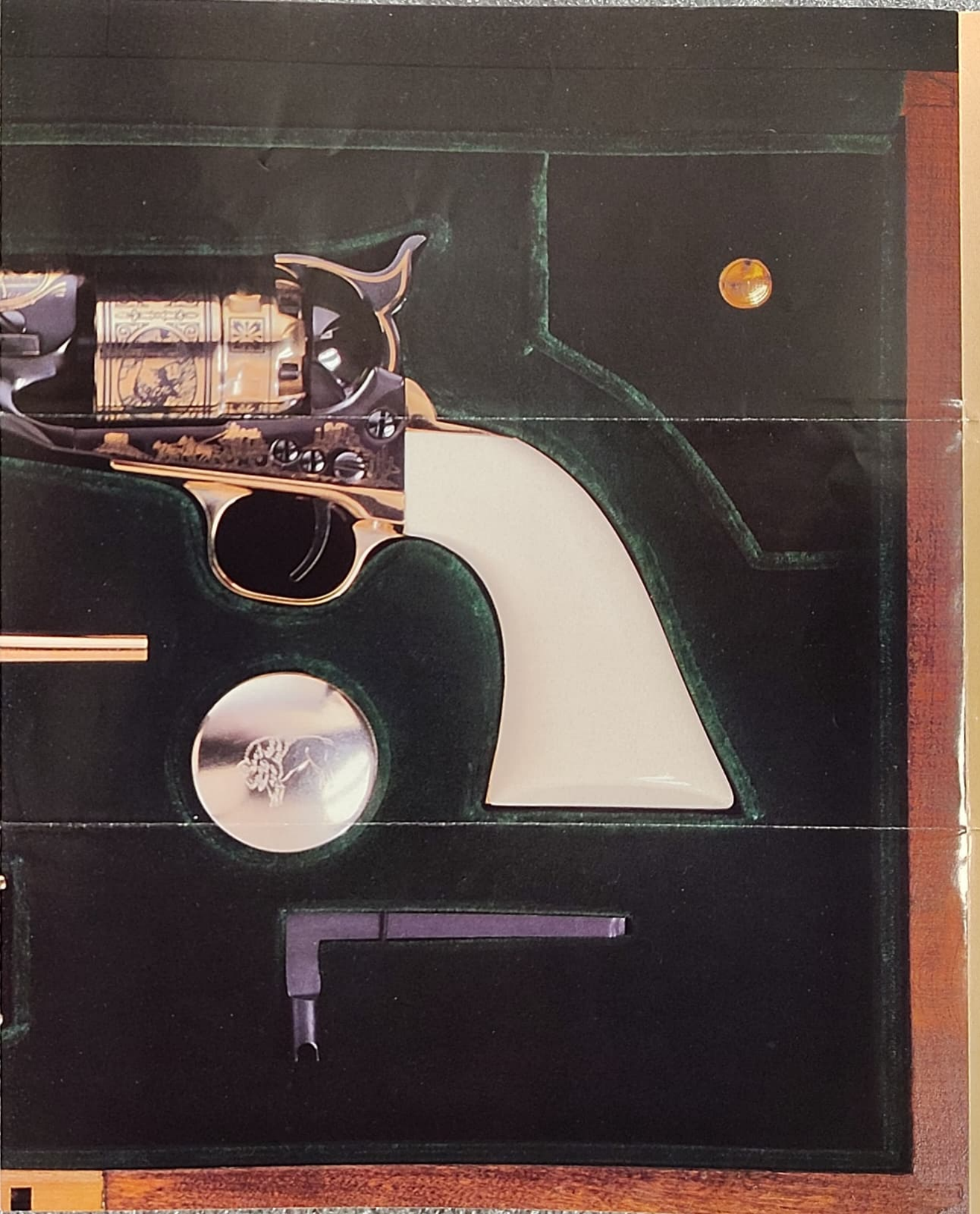
THE OFFICIAL
BUFFALO
BILL

CENTENNIAL PISTOL

Authorized by the United States Historical Society







Buffalo Bill Cody

(1846-1917)



The Colt Pistol and Buffalo Bill were made for each other.

If ever the American West spawned a colorful character, that individual would have to be Buffalo Bill Cody. Cody was forever on horseback, first as a Pony Express rider at age 14, then in the Seventh Kansas Cavalry during the Civil War, then as a buffalo hunter for the Union Pacific Railroad, then as chief of scouts for the Fifth and Third U.S. Cavalry Regiments, and ultimately as the superstar of his own Wild West Show which toured the world for more than 30 years.

Buffalo Bill was no "paper hero." In 1876 he single-handedly rescued two messengers from the dreaded Indian chief Yellow Hand, killing him with his Colt revolver. During his enlistment as chief Cavalry scout, he fought in eleven expeditions and a dozen Indian skirmishes.

More than any other man in history, Buffalo Bill romanticized the American West. To this day, when children play "Cowboys and Indians," they mirror the Wild West extravaganza which established William Cody as a showman comparable to P.T. Barnum—except that Barnum never performed in his own shows, whereas Buffalo Bill was the star.

The 1860 Army Colt was literally a partner to Buffalo Bill. He was reported to have said, "I'd feel undressed without it."

The pistol itself is classic Americana. Abraham Lincoln gave a pair of 1860 Colts to King Charles XV of Sweden and another to King Frederick VII of Denmark. Samuel Colt himself, only months before his death in 1861, presented an 1860 Colt to General George McClellan of the Union Army.

Military men admired the Colt's dependability and accuracy. The flamboyant Col. Cody never would settle for a smooth barrel and hardwood stock: the barrel must be engraved and the stock replaced with expensive custom-carved pieces.

SPECIFICATIONS

Overall Length: 13½ inches

Barrel Length: 8 inches

Caliber: .44

Weight: 2 pounds, 10 ounces

Engraving: 24-karat gold

Stock: Bonded ivory

Cylinder: six chambers

Frame and Metal Cylinder: First quality steel, blued

Trigger guard and Backstrap: 24-karat gold plate

Percussion Caps: Original Bley Bros. style (Black powder only)

Powder Flask: 24-karat gold plated brass

Screw Driver/Nipple Wrench: blued steel

Bullet Mold: polished brass and steel

Each Buffalo Bill Cody Colt Replica has been test-fired under the direction of the Williamsburg Firearms Manufactory. As a genuine historical replica, each pistol is fully certificated and is exempt from firearm registration statutes.

THE OFFICIAL **BUFFALO** **BILL** **CENTENNIAL PISTOL**

T

hroughout his colorful career, Col. William "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his Colt Revolver were an inseparable pair.

To replicate the original 1860 Army Colt to honor the Centennial of the founding of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Extravaganza, the United States Historical Society commissioned the Williamsburg Firearms Manufactory to create a working replica of the Western hero's own 1860 Army Colt.

The Colt Model 1860 Army revolver replaced the 1851 model which had made the company famous. The '51 was a .36 caliber, but the '60 was a vastly more powerful .44. More important, shooting accuracy was greatly improved. Yet the weight of this weapon, remarkable for its time, was only 2 pounds 10 ounces.

The U.S. Army quickly adopted the 1860 Colt, and of the more than 200,000 made (production was discontinued in 1873), more than 40 percent were produced for the Army.

Buffalo Bill Cody's ivory-handled 1860 Colts were legendary even during his lifetime. He often posed for photographs with his pistols in his belt, the handles available for a quick draw.

THE DECORATION

The United States Historical Society commissioned the well known artist Jack Woodson to create special gold-etched illustrations for the official Buffalo Bill Centennial Pistol.

On the frame is the cowboy-showman as he is so well-remembered—on horseback, standing in the stirrups and waving his ten-gallon hat to acknowledge the applause of the crowd.

In exquisite detail, Mr. Woodson has positioned four scenes on the cylinder of the famous six-shooter: the Pony Express; Chief Iron Tail; Buffalo Bill Cody with the Congress of Rough Riders in the background; and the Deadwood Stage. (All these, including the celebrated Indian chief, appeared in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.)

THE POWDER FLASK

The Cannon & Flag, in carved-relief, decorates the Colt powder flask. The flask itself is historically accurate in size and accoutrements.



THE DISPLAY CASE

Custom designed and hand built, the display case is solid American cherry wood.

The lid is inlaid with genuine leather, 24-karat gold stamped in a special design created expressly for the Cody Centennial Pistol.

Upholstery and lining are velvet, French-fitted to cradle the pistol, the powder flask, the bullet mold, the screwdriver/nipple wrench, and a special percussion cap box engraved with a figure of the buffalo by craftsmen of the Williamsburg Firearms Manufactory. The buttoned corner compartments hold a supply of lead balls.

BONDED IVORY

The grips of the Buffalo Bill pistols are bonded ivory. "Tusk" ivory may not be imported into the United States, by federal statute. Bonded ivory has the texture, feel, and appearance of tusk ivory, but is stronger and not subject to yellowing oxidation. With reasonable care bonded ivory should show no appreciable signs of age for hundreds of years.

RESERVATION

The official Bill Cody Centennial Pistol is available only by direct reservation through the United States Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.

The United States Historical Society is a private, non-governmental organization dedicated to historical research and the sponsorship of projects and issuance of objects which are artistically and historically significant.

ANTIQUE ARMS COMMITTEE

R. L. Wilson
Chairman
Author/Historian

Jeffery Belcher
Chief Gunsmith
Williamsburg Firearms Manufactory*

Mel Tormé
Composer/Artist

Michael Korda
Editor-in-Chief
Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Jerry Rakusan
Editor
Guns Magazine

Lt. Gen. Richard M. Montgomery
USAF (Ret.)



United States Historical Society®

First and Main Streets
Richmond, Virginia 23219